

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Remarks***

1. The applicant has cancelled claims 1-10.
2. Claims 11-18 were indicated as allowable in the previous office action and remain in allowable form.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 11-18 are allowed.
4. Regarding claims 11,13,15 and 17, prior art Rhine discloses a sound detecting device comprising a headset having earcups for attenuating ambient sound eaves, a microphone, a potentiometer, a speaker and amplifier. Prior art Morrill discloses a radio communication apparatus with attenuating earpieces comprising transducers and a radio transceiver. Prior art Trompler discloses a noise limiting circuit for earmuffs.

Regarding claims 11,13,15 and 17, the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious a fixed gain pre-amplifier, having an input connected to the output of said microphone, having an output, a rheostat having an input connected to the output of said fixed gain pre-amplifier and having an output, and a fixed gain output amplifier having an input connection to the output of said rheostat, having an output.

Therefore the prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious an apparatus for communication and reconnaissance coupled with protection for the auditory circuitry as claimed.

Art Unit: 2615


**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Devona E. Faulk whose telephone number is 571-272-7515. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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